

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 and 15-41 are pending in the application following entry of the above amendments.

The applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication in the office action that claims 1-9, 21-31, and 37-40 are allowed and that claims 11-18, and 33-36 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Allowable claim 14, now canceled, depended directly from independent claim 10. The limitations of claim 14 have been added to independent claim 10. Accordingly, claim 10 should be allowed. Claims 15 and 21 have been amended to depend from claim 10 such that each of claims 11-13 and 15-21 now depends from claim 10. Therefore, each of claims 1-13, 15-31 and 37-40 should be allowed.

Claim 22 has been amended for antecedent basis and claim 38 has been amended for grammar. No new matter has been added.

ARGUMENTS

The Examiner objected to the drawings for informalities and required that corrected drawings be filed in response. Nine (9) sheets of corrected drawings are attached hereto.

Claims 10, 19, 20, 32 and 41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 3,183,333 (Golbeck). As discussed above, claim 10 has been amended to include the limitations of allowable claim 14 and should be allowed. Each of claims 19 and 20 depends from claim 10 and, therefore, should also be allowed. Claim 32 recites a switch mechanism for a switch assembly comprising a pivot member, a spring, and a spring damper. The spring damper is received within the coils of the spring and contacting the coils to limit resonating vibrations of the coils following a change in relative angular orientation between the pivot member and the adjacently located member.

Golbeck discloses a push button switch including a switch actuating member (37) actuated by a pawl (36). The actuating member “contains a contact tip 41 maintained in contact with a contact bar 42 by a third spring 43.” (Col. 3, lines 22-22). Golbeck states that the spring (43) “compresses and tip 41 rides along bar 42. When the contact tip 41 is moved past the center point of bar 42, the actuator 37 snaps into the other position under the urging of the spring 43.” (Col. 3, lines 68-71). There is no disclosure or showing in Golbeck that the tip 41 is received within the coils of the spring 43 or that the tip 41 contacts the coils to limit resonating vibrations of the coils following a change in relative angular orientation in the claimed manner. Golbeck does not include each feature of claim 32 and, therefore does not anticipate claim 32.

Claim 41 recites a switch assembly comprising an actuator assembly and a switch mechanism. The actuator assembly of claim 41 includes a pushbutton, a pushbutton guide, a pushbutton return spring, an actuator pin and a retainer. The switch mechanism of claim 41 includes a pivot member, a switch plate and a contact spring. Claim 41 recites that the switch plate is supported along an edge of the switch plate for pivoting movement.

The Examiner has taken the position that element (42) of Golbeck is comparable to the switch plate of claim 41. Element (42) of Golbeck, however, is not a plate that is supported along an edge of the plate as required. Instead, element (42) is a “bar” pivotably supported at a centrally located point on the bar to provide for pivot of the bar about the centrally located point. (See Figures 3 and 4). Golbeck does not show each feature of claim 41 and, therefore, does not anticipate claim 41.

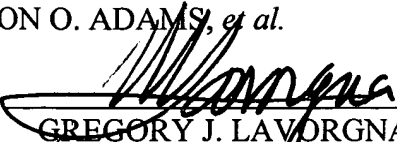
For the foregoing reasons, the applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 10, 19, 20, 32 and 41 based on Golbeck be withdrawn.

It is submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that direct communication would advance prosecution, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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AMENDMENT TO THE DRAWINGS:

The drawings have been amended to correct informalities. Attached hereto are nine (9) sheets of corrected drawings each labeled "replacement sheet".